

MAINE FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
May 8, 2006
(approved June 5, 2006)

Chair Jeffrey Cammack called the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission to order at 1:08pm in Florian Hall, Maine Department of Public Safety Building, 45 Commerce Drive, Augusta. Members present were Representative Richard Brown, Stephan Bunker, Steve Burgess (for Art Cleaves), Chief Jeffrey Cammack, Chief John Dean, Geoffrey Maker, Alex McPhedran, Senator Richard Nass, David Niklaus, Charles Soltan, David Wacker, Leslie Wiles and Susan Pinette (staff). Members excused were Representative Patricia Blanchette, Jay Bradshaw, Senator Bruce Bryant, John Cannon, Representative Robert Duplessie, Chief Darrel Fournier, Gerry Gay, Edward Johnston, Harty Norris and Chief Jethro Pease. Guests of the Fire Commission included Ron Green of the Bangor Fire Department, Steve Willis from Maine Fire Training and Education, Chief John Woulfe of the Rumford Fire Department, Chief Wayne Werts of the Auburn Fire Department, Chief Fred LaMontagne of the Portland Fire Department and Chief Kevin Guimond of the South Portland Fire Department.

A motion by Richard Nass, seconded by Charlie Soltan, to accept the March 7, 2006 meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion by Richard Nass, seconded by Charlie Soltan, to accept the March 27, 2006 meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion by Richard Nass, seconded by Dick Brown, to accept the April 4, 2006 meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

According to the Fire Commission bylaws, election of officers is scheduled for the April meeting. Since there was not a quorum at the April meeting, the election of officers was postponed until May. The Elections committee recommended the following slate of candidates for consideration:

Chief Jeffrey Cammack- Chair
Senator Richard Nass- Vice Chair
Geoffrey Maker- Secretary
Chief John Dean- Treasurer

A motion by Dick Brown, seconded by Charlie Soltan, to move the slate of officers as recommended by the Elections Committee. The motion passed unanimously.

In March 2006, at the Fire Commission's request, a task force consisting of representatives of Maine fire chiefs met to begin discussions on training facilities. The Task Force submitted its final report to the Fire Commission and copies were distributed to members. Chief Woulfe of Rumford, Chief LaMontagne of Portland, Chief Guimond of South Portland and Chief Werts of Auburn represented the Task Force and presented their findings and recommendations to the Fire Commission. In summary, the Task Force found that "the roles of the first responder have changed with the advent of terrorism, natural and manmade disasters (and) the task force recommends the establishment of the Maine Emergency Services Institute (MESI). The mission of MESI would be to train both public and private organizations in consequence management. Examples include but are not limited to: fire fighting, hazardous materials response and mitigation, the National Incident Management System, Incident Command, Business Continuity, Emergency Planning, public fire education, and community risk reduction." (page 15 of the *Task Force Report*) Fire Commission members thanked the Task Force for their hard work and had many questions for the four representatives. Topics included possible sites, consequence management versus response management (primary focus of fire service versus law enforcement), estimated costs, and short and long term plans. Members discussed the Fire Commission's future role and agreed to thoroughly read the Task Force report and schedule further discussion at the June meeting.

Legislative Update

L.D. 10 **"Resolve, To Fund a Study Regarding Health Care for Maine's Firefighters."** This bill remains on the Appropriations table. The Appropriations Committee will "run the table" after the Legislature returns from recess on May 22nd.

L.D. 1021 **"An Act To Implement Task Force Recommendations Relating to Parity and Portability of Benefits for Law Enforcement Officers and Firefighters"**. This bill is in non-concurrence and tabled in the House. Further action will probably occur after the legislative recess.

L.D. 2044 **"An Act To Enhance the Protection of Maine Families from Terrorism and Natural Disasters" (Emergency)** Enacted in both the House and Senate on April 29th.

Committee Reports

Fire Commission members discussed plans for the Spring 2007 Blaine House Conference on Emergency First Response. Members agreed to continue with a two-day format during the week, rather than over a weekend. Due to scheduling conflicts at the Augusta Civic Center, the conference may take place earlier in the year. Members discussed the pros and cons of the last two

conferences and suggested ways to improve the 2007 conference. Members agreed to work on tighter scheduling of the workshops, offer new and interesting topics, allow more time for networking and provide additional vendors and displays.

Members discussed the role of Maine Fire Training and Education (MFT&E) and the Fire Commission regarding residential sprinklers. The Residential Sprinkler Committee has not met recently due to recent changes in the Fire Commission's membership. Fire Commission members expressed desire to continue to support residential sprinklers and will consider submitting legislation in 2007. Members acknowledged that public awareness and public education regarding residential sprinklers will be important tasks if the Fire Commission is successful in this endeavor and hopes that MFT&E's will support this effort. Fire Commission members also agreed to identify additional interested parties and schedule a joint meeting in the future.

Old Business

The April meeting between the State Fire Marshal's Office (SFMO) and MFT&E has been rescheduled to a later date. The SFMO and MFT&E are expected to discuss issues of joint concern and the State Fire Marshal will update the Fire Commission at a future meeting.

New Business

Fire Commission members agreed to host the Maine Fire Service Day at the State House in 2007. Maine Fire Service Day at the State House is an opportunity for various fire service organizations to interact with members of the Legislature. Staff will contact the Clerk's Office and reserve the Hall of Flags for a day in January or February 2007. Members also agreed to host a Legislative breakfast in 2007 and to coordinate efforts with the Maine Fire Chiefs Association.

A motion by Dick Brown, seconded by Steve Bunker, that the Fire Commission hosts the Maine Fire Service Day at the State House in 2007 and directs staff to reserve the Hall of Flags as soon as possible. The motion passed unanimously.

With no further business to come before the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission, Chair Jeffrey Cammack adjourns the meeting at 3:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Pinette

FIRE COMMISSION SCHEDULE- 2006

Monday, June 5 th	Regular Meeting	Florian Hall	1pm
Monday, July 10 th	Regular Meeting	Florian Hall	1pm
Monday, August 7 th	Regular Meeting	Florian Hall	1pm
Monday, September 11 th	Regular Meeting	Florian Hall	1pm
Monday, October 2 nd	Regular Meeting	Florian Hall	1pm
Monday, November 6 th	Regular Meeting	Florian Hall	1pm
Monday, December 4 th	Regular Meeting	Florian Hall	1pm

(5/2006)